



### LETTER FROM THE MAYOR



Dear Residents:

Thank you for the vote of confidence in re-electing me to the Office of Mayor of the City of Westminster. Council Member Chiavacci was also re-elected and Council Member Suzanne Albert will be returning to the Council. We will continue to serve the residents of the City, provide a solid financial foundation and revitalize downtown.

The following budget actions have been approved by the Common Council:

- ♦ A one-cent reduction in the General Fund Property Tax from .57 cents to .56 cents. This commitment to reduce the tax increase as capital improvement projects were completed was made by the Mayor and Council when the increase was adopted in 2009.
- ♦ No increase in water or sewer rates.
- ♦ Place the one-time highway user revenue in the Capital Project Reserve account to use for emergency or one-time only projects since there is no commitment for continuing this revenue source beyond this year.
- ♦ Included a 3% cost of living increase for our employees who have exhibited their commitment and dedication to our residents during the recession and who have not received an increase in five years.
- ♦ Added two emergency projects to the Priority One projects funded by the tax increase: replacement of the furnaces in the Police Department and partial replacement of the Skateboard Park. The other priority capital projects include vehicle and equipment replacement, street overlay and sidewalk replacement projects, repairs to City Hall and the Longwell Armory and replacement of the SAN network.
- ♦ The budget is available for your review on our web site [www.westminstermd.gov](http://www.westminstermd.gov).

The City is "alive with the sound of music" this summer  
now through July 28:

**6:30 CONCERT SERIES—Thursdays at the Westminster Library Stage**

**A MONTH OF SUNDAYS SERIES—Westminster City Park, 6:45 P.M.**

**COMMON GROUND ON THE TOWN—Festival Downtown, July 13, 9:00 P.M.**

For more information, visit [www.westminstermd.gov](http://www.westminstermd.gov) under "Summer Concerts" or view the direct link here: <http://www.westminstermd.gov/recreation/documents/Livemusicposter.pdf>

Sincerely,

Mayor Utz

# July-August-September



**JULY IS RECREATION AND PARKS  
MONTH! CHECK OUR WEBSITE  
FOR THE AMAZING  
THINGS WE HAVE PLANNED *EVERY*  
DAY IN JULY!**

## **National Night Out Tuesday, August 6**

Help run crime out of our neighborhoods with this annual block party.

Contact Sgt. Keith  
Benfer at 410-848-9280  
for details.

Check our website

[www.westminstermd.gov](http://www.westminstermd.gov)

For upcoming fall favorites like  
Parent's Night Out and Rec on The  
Move!

## **Westminster FallFest**

**September 26-29**

In addition to carnival rides,  
food, craft and  
commercial vendors,

Westminster FallFest is the largest  
charity fundraiser in Carroll County!

Join us for these great  
features during the weekend too!

[www.westminsterfallfest.com](http://www.westminsterfallfest.com)



**Westminster Family Fitness Center**

**NO ENROLLMENT FEE\***

**\*with this coupon**

Bring this coupon with you when you enroll as a new member of  
the Westminster Family Fitness Center and pay  
NO ENROLLMENT FEE!

Cannot be combined with any other offer or discount.  
Coupon expires August 31, 2013



**Westminster Family Fitness Center**

**1 FREE ADMITANCE\***

**\*With this coupon**

Come try us and see why we're one of  
the most popular fitness centers in Westminster!

Coupon expires August 31, 2013



## A Big Loss. A Sad Day



### Heritage Tree Lifted & Felled By Major Storm

If you saw the front page of the *Carroll County Times* the day after the big storm of 6.13.13, you couldn't help but notice the large full color picture of a very big tree that

had been up rooted by the storm.

The tree, a white oak (pictured above), was proudly owned by Mr. & Mrs. Sizemore. Just last year they agreed to have their tree included in the City's Heritage Tree Program. This beautiful tree was already listed in the Maryland Tree Book—a registry of Heritage Trees throughout Maryland.

In this instance "very big" is a major understatement. At 91' tall, the tree was as tall as a 9 story building. The other statistics are staggering as well—a circumference of 17', the branches spread out over 100'. The uprooted root base dwarfs Mr. Sizemore.

One single limb that fell a year or so ago was 3' in circumference and up to 40 feet long...*just one branch.*

Mrs. Sizemore noted that some have said, in essence, what's the big deal is was *just* a tree.

The tree started growing around 1620 nearly 100 years before the birth William Winchester, the founder of Westminster. Over nearly four centuries, the tree was witness to the fighting of the French and Indian War, American Revolution and the Civil War.

The armies of those wars most certainly traveled past the tree when they marched along the "travel wagon road."

Our sympathies to the Sizemore's on their big loss, a loss that is shared by many.

For more information about the City's Heritage Tree Program, please call the City's Information Desk at 410-848-9000. You may also visit the City's web site [westminstermd.gov/citygov/heritagetrees](http://westminstermd.gov/citygov/heritagetrees)

## Be An Environmental Gardener

### COMPOSTING

Composting is the natural process of decomposition of organic materials into a humus rich soil known as compost. For details on how to compost, visit [www.recyclecarroll.org](http://www.recyclecarroll.org) and click on the "Smart Choices" link.

Yard trimmings are banned from being deposited in the landfill cell or transferred to other disposal facilities...

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Acceptable yard trimmings can be delivered to the designated site at the County's landfills at no charge in Kraft (paper) bags, plastic bags are prohibited at the yard trim area as they damage the equipment.

Yard trimmings are collected every Wednesday from City residents in bushel-sized containers or paper bags ONLY.

### GRASSCYCLING



If you are bagging lawn clippings, you are wasting a valuable resource. Clippings contain valuable nutrients that provide organic matter to the soil. Leaving grass clippings on the lawn reduces the need for commercial fertilizer. This is called "grasscycling."

Grasscycling saves you money and time, improves the appearance of your lawn and does not cause thatch. Simply follow these steps:

- ◆ Set sharp mower blade to keep grass 2 1/2 –3" high
- ◆ Mow as needed and when grass is dry
- ◆ Avoid over fertilizing your lawn; this encourages overgrowth that contributes to thatch
- ◆ Water only during extended dry spells; one inch of water every five to seven days is best

## Join the Historic District Commission!

**If you like old buildings....**

then the City's Historic District Commission would like to talk with you.

Educating the citizens of Westminster about local history and the preservation of older homes and buildings is an important responsibility of the Historic District Commission. They also know that they can learn a lot from you.

The Commission member's backgrounds include preservation, archeology, architecture, history and business. Most all of them have direct personal experience fixing up, renovating and modernizing their own older homes or commercial buildings.

So they have much experience and expertise to share. They also want to talk with you, to learn from you.

If you are thinking about renovating an older home or building they would like to talk with you about your project at their next meeting.

For more information call 410-848-9000, email [PreserveWestminster@westgov.com](mailto:PreserveWestminster@westgov.com) or visit the City's web page: [westminstermd.gov/citygov/citygov\\_hdc](http://westminstermd.gov/citygov/citygov_hdc).

## Carroll Arts Center Events

**Friday, July 12, 8pm:** The Crowdaddies will spice it up in their first appearance at the Arts Center. Their music combines Louisiana's Cajun/Zydeco style with American Blues and Roots Rock to create sound that is all its own. Tickets are \$16 for Members, Students under 18 and Seniors; \$18 general admission.

### **FREE Summer Family Movies:**

Tuesdays at 7pm at the Carroll Arts Center

July 2: *An American Tail* (1986)  
July 9: *Who Framed Roger Rabbit* (1988)  
July 16: *The Little Rascals* (1994)  
July 23: *Field of Dreams* (1989)  
July 30: *The Muppet Movie* (1979)

**Friday, August 16, 7:30pm:** FLICC presents "Les Misérables" 2012; PG-13; 158min. Jean Valjean, known as Prisoner 24601, is released from prison and breaks parole to create a new life for himself while evading the grip of the persistent Inspector Javert. Set in post-revolutionary France, the story reaches resolution against the background of the June Rebellion. Cost \$6 for adults; \$5 for CCAC Members, Students under 18 and Seniors 60+.

### **Gallery: Images of the Civil War**

The exhibit will be on view in the Tevis Gallery now through August 16, 2013.

The Civil War conjures up strong sentiments on politics, slavery, women and children, uniforms, portraits and much more. What's changed? What remains? How does this War's legacy impact us today? "We are anxious to see this story told through the eyes of artists," says Visual Arts Coordinator, Susan Williamson. "So many programs and activities strive to educate people about the Civil War in a factual manner with accuracy and authenticity, and rightly so. However, this exhibit will be an opportunity to express how America's bloodiest conflict affects today's society on an emotional and spiritual level. We hope to see some powerful works dealing with racial differences, the concept of neighbor against neighbor, the commercialization of Gettysburg, the trauma over the number of lives lost and the heroic actions of so many during the Civil War. Without a doubt, we hope this will be more than an exhibit featuring photographs of weathered battlefield monuments. We hope to inspire thought, reflection and conversation."

"Images of the Civil War" is made possible by a grant from: The Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area, a certified heritage area of the Maryland Heritage Area Authority.



## Summer Camps

### **Theatre Opportunity for Teenagers this Summer at the CCAC!**

The Carroll Arts Center will be offering an exciting new program that will run July 8 – 19. This is a great opportunity for kids aged 13-18 with an interest in theatre! Much more than an introductory camp, this program will provide participants with a hands on, in depth experience in producing theatre.

Participants will work with theatre professionals, play improvisation games, watch a live production, and receive head shots to take to upcoming auditions! Also, throughout the camp will be workshops including Stage Combat, Acting Techniques, Stage Make-Up, Technical Theatre and lots more. The program will conclude with a live performance by the campers at 4pm on July 19th.

The camp runs from 1 pm – 5 pm, Monday through Friday for 2 weeks. Tuition for the camp is \$150 for Arts Council Members or \$175 for Non-Members. Tuition assistance is available through the Tom Holder Memorial Arts Scholarship Fund.

### **Creative Kids Camp**

The Carroll Arts Center has a long tradition of educating, enlightening and entertaining hundreds of children each summer during its popular summer camps. Due to its popularity, there will be two sessions of "Creative Kids Camp" July 8 – 15 and July 15 – 19.

Campers, ages 5 – 8, will get a taste of all aspects of the visual and performing arts through sing-a-longs, arts & crafts, drama games, special guests, movies and gallery activities. Popsicles, face-painting and walks to the park round out a week of fun that culminates in a performance for parents as well as a special screening of the camp movie. This is a wonderful way to introduce your child to the arts!

The camp runs from 9:30 am – 12:30 pm, Monday through Friday. Tuition for the week-long camp is \$100 for Arts Council Members or \$115 for Non-Members. Tuition includes all supplies, snacks, an Arts Camp t-shirt and a dvd of the camp movie. Tuition assistance is available through the Tom Holder Memorial Arts Scholarship Fund. The Camp Director is Sandy Oxx who has been leading this popular summer offering for the past 16 years.

On-line registration is available at [www.CarrollCountyArtsCouncil.org](http://www.CarrollCountyArtsCouncil.org) or by visiting the Carroll Arts Center at 91 West Main Street in downtown Westminster.